

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN PLOTTING A PARENTING PLAN

Child(ren)-based considerations

- Safety issues
- Developmental needs
- Special needs, if any
- Temperament/Ease of transitions/Adaptability
- School demands
- Opportunities for both parents to be involved with school, homework, extracurricular activities, rule setting and discipline, child(ren)'s peer contacts
- Opportunities to pursue child(ren)'s own interests and peer relationships

Parent-based considerations

- Safety issues (child abuse, substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, negligent supervision)
- Level of conflict between parents
- Geographic proximity
- Parent's availability (work schedule; commitments to other family members)
- Understanding and ability of each parent to appreciate and meet developmental needs
- Competence at managing day-to-day parenting tasks

Categories to include in every plan

- Custody/Decision-making: sole, joint, joint with final decision in case of inability to agree
- Process for communication between parents
- Primary residence/physical custody/designation of school/district
- School year parenting schedule
- Summer parenting schedule
- School break schedule
- Holidays
- Transportation
- Telephone contact between child(ren) and absent parent
- Arranging for third-party care-giver/right of first refusal to other parent
- Sharing of information received about child/tickets to events
- Post-majority education
- Travel outside of state or country with child

Non-exhaustive list of categories to include as necessary and/or appropriate

- Definition of decisions requiring joint parental consultation and agreement
- Process for resolving disputes between parents
- Separate schedules for siblings
- Relocation language
- Therapy for children and/or parents; authorizations for communication among therapists
- Accompanying child(ren) for air travel
- Limitations on child(ren)'s exposure to parents' other adult relationships
- Religious instruction and participation when parents differ
- Limitations on alcohol use by parent caring for child(ren)

HOLIDAYS TO CONSIDER FOR PARENTING SCHEDULE

Secular holidays

Halloween
Thanksgiving Day
Thanksgiving weekend
Winter School Break/President's Day Break
New Year's Eve
New Year's Day
Spring School Break
Mother's Day (begin Saturday evening or Sunday morning?)
Father's Day (begin Saturday evening or Sunday morning?)
Monday School/Federal holidays
July 4 (what if it falls during a parent's vacation week?)
Child's birthday
Parents' birthdays

Election Day, Veteran's Day, Teacher In-service days, Snow Days, Early dismissal days

Commonly-observed religious holidays

Christmas Eve
Christmas Eve overnight
Christmas Day
Ash Wednesday
Good Friday
Holy Saturday
Easter Day (what if it falls during Spring Break?)
Orthodox Easter
Orthodox Christmas

Erev Rosh Hashanah (the first night of Rosh Hashanah)
First day of Rosh Hashanah
Second night of Rosh Hashanah
Second day of Rosh Hashanah
Erev Yom Kippur
Yom Kippur
First night of Chanukah
Second night of Chanukah
Third night of Chanukah
Fourth night of Chanukah
Fifth night of Chanukah
Sixth night of Chanukah
Seventh night of Chanukah
Eighth night of Chanukah
Purim
First night of Passover
Second night of Passover
Sukkot

Eid al-fitr